

Technology, KVIC and several NGOs. The Leather Technology Mission complements the National Leather Development Programme (NLDP) and focuses attention on leather processing while the NLDP stresses on the leather products sector. The Mission inter-alia seeks to help industry achieve the targets set of annual growth rate of 25 per cent and to raise India's share in the global leather trade to 10 per cent (up from 2 per cent). Of the 120 projects planned for development and implementation more than 70 programmes have been initiated covering eleven States of the country with the objectives to:

- a. augment the availability of quality hides and skins;
- b. evolve a technology grid for a balanced development of the sector;
- c. provide extension services of rural and small-scale units for adoption of cleaner technology and for upgradation of the processing techniques;
- d. initiate a campaign for quality and standardisation;
- e. enable harmonious blending of traditional and new skills through innovative training and HRD programmes;
- f. evolve and implement appropriate technology delivery systems;
- g. *study and identify the most suitable organisational structures to integrate the development of rural, semi-urban and urban sector.*

Significant achievement under leather processing, and products include: establishment of a model carcass recovery centre at Bakshi-Ka-Talab in U.P. for training and demonstration techniques of better collection and recovery of products from fallen carcasses; modernisation of two tanneries through improvement of in-plant ecology, partial automation and process control for product consistency, cleaner leather processing technology packages comprising curing methods such as enzyme dehairing, ammonia free deliming, chrome exhaust tanning. A modern footwear design, development, fabrication and testing centre was set-up, with a pilot facility for stuck-on and stitch-down type Computer Aided Design and laser cutting of pattern for footwear and conveyor fabrication facility with SATRA accreditation.

(R) RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The achievements during the period have been employment generation of over 80 lakh mandays, energy savings of nearly 1.25 lakh tonnes of coal equivalent and productivity improvement gains of about Rs. 100 crore and provision of drinking water to nearly 1200 villages.

National Power Grid

62. SHRI S. RAMACHNADRA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to formulate a plan to interconnect all regional electricity grids in to a National Power Grid.
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the work on the same is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The Government have formulated plans to inter connect various regional electricity grids of the country. Some of these links are already under operation and other are under construction or under consideration. The details are as under:

I. Existing (Under Operation)

- (i) Between Western & Northern Region-500 MW VindhyaChal HVDC Back to Back Station.
- (ii) Between North-Eastern & Eastern Region-220 KV Birpara-Bongaigaon.
- (iii) Ramagundan-Chandrapur-400 KV line between Southern Region & Western Region.
- (iv) Between Western & Southern region-1st 500 MW Pole of 1000 MW HVDC back to back at Chandrapur.

II. Under construction

- (i) Between Western & Southern region—2nd 500 MW Pole of 1000 MW HVDC back to back at Chandrapur.
- (ii) Between Eastern & Southern Regions—500MW HVDC back to back at Gazuwaka.
- (iii) Between North Eastern & Eastern Region—400 KV between Bongaigaon and Malda.

III. Under consideration

- (i) Between Eastern & Northern Region—500 MW at Sasaram between Biharshariff to Rihand.
- (ii) 400 KV AC Raipur (WR) to Rourkela (ER).
- (iii) 3000 MW HVDC Bipole link between Talcher in ER to Bangalore in SR as a part of Talcher-II transmission system.
- (iv) 3000 MW HVDC Bipole link between Ib Valley in ER and Jaipur in NR and 400 KV AC system from Ib Valley (ER) to Raipur (WR). These transmission links are part of the transmission system associated with CEPA.

(c) The expected commissioning dates of the on-going project(s) are as follows:

Project	Commissioning Date
i. Chandrapur B/B HVDC	11/97
ii. Gazuwaka B/B Project HVDC	2/99
iii. Sasaram B/B HVDC	3/2000
iv. 400 KV Bongaigaon—Malda	3/98
v. Talcher—Bangalore HVDC	2001-02
vi (a) Ib Valley—Jaipur HVDC (b) Ib Valley—Raipur AC system	12/2001 6/2001
vii. 400 KV Raipur—Rourkela	2001/02
viii. Chandrapur B/B HVDC	11/97

[Translation]

Shortage of Power in Bihar

63. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is surplus power in eastern region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether despite surplus power in the region, there is acute shortage of power in the Eastern States particularly in Bihar which caused closure of small scale industries of the region; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Eastern Region is having surplus power during off-peak period. However, there is peak deficit in varying degree in all the States in the Region.

(c) and (d) The energy and peaking shortage in the Eastern Region including Bihar during April-October, 1997 and in Oct., 1997 is given below:—

State/System	Energy shortage (%)		Peaking Shortage (%)	
	April-Oct. 97	Oct., 97	April-Oct. 97	Oct., 97
Bihar	22.9	22.6	43.7	43.7
D.V.C.	5.1	5.4	25.4	20.1
Orissa	4.1	6.0	13.4	13.4
West Bengal	1.5	1.6	7.0	7.0
Eastern Region	7.2	7.9	20.0	20.0

In Bihar, there is no statutory power cut on industries. However, the main reasons for power shortage in Bihar is State's inadequate sub-transmission & distribution network, poor performance of thermal power stations of Bihar State Electricity Board and inability of the State Government to pay for the power from Central Generating Stations.

[English]

Common Minimum Programme

64. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the concrete steps taken by the Government to implement their Common Minimum programme (CMP); and
- (b) the specific achievement made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CGHS Facilities to Retired Persons

65. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether after recent acceptance of recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission in a modified form, pensioners not covered under CGHS are entitled to reimbursement of cost of treatment as in-patients as applicable in the cases of serving employees;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) The Fifth Central Pay Commission have recommended that:—

"CS(MA) Rules, 1944 should be extended to pensioners, in a restricted manner so as to facilitate reimbursement of hospital recognised under CGHS or under CS(MA) Rules for the purpose. Such reimbursement claims should be settled in full by the respective Ministry/Dept. of the pensioner under the provisions of CS(MA) Rules."

This proposal is under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

Sanitations in Hospitals

66. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarrad Question No. 2385 on August 6, 1997 and state: